



Rare Plants of Louisiana



Amorpha paniculata – paniced indigobush Legume/Bean Family (Fabaceae)

Rarity Ranks: S1S2/G2G3

Range: AR, LA, OK, TX

Recognition:

- 1) Shrub to about 6 feet tall
- 2) Pinnately compound leaves 8 - 14" long with 13 to 19 leaflets
- 3) Leaflets 1-3" long with conspicuous net-like venation and wooly hairs beneath
- 4) Flowers purple and gold on racemes 8-16" long
- 5) Robust cluster of racemes exerted above foliage
- 6) Fruit is a tiny legume about ¼" long

Flowering Time: late May – early June

Will flower later if stem mechanically cut (e.g. bush hogged) and presumably if burned

Light Requirement: Full sun to part shade

Wetland Status: FACW - usually occurs in wetlands

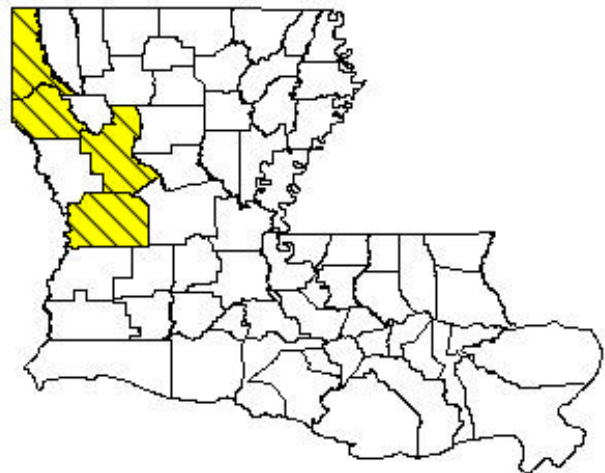
Habitats: Beaver ponds, lake shores, beside streams, stream valley seepage bogs, ditches and roadsides, forested seeps/bayhead swamps, and interior fresh and saline marshes. Associates observed at Louisiana sites include loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), St. Andrew's cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*), waxmyrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), and blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

Threats:

- 1) Forest type conversion
- 2) Overstocking (shading)
- 3) Hydrological alterations including construction of ponds/private lakes with control structures which interrupt natural flow and cause dewatering of downstream habitats during dry conditions

Beneficial management practices:

- 1) Thinning and burning
- 2) Hand clearing, injecting, and/or dropping and leaving a few trees to allow more sunlight if commercial thinning is not practical
- 3) Refrain from altering hydrology of natural herbaceous wetland systems such as bogs and marshes





Panicked indigobush single leaf – ruler = 2” long. Photo provided by LSU Herbarium



Closer view of flowers

References:

- Correll, D. S. and M. C. Johnston. 1979. Manual of the vascular flora of Texas. The University of Texas at Dallas. 1881 pp.
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